

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

People Helping People



The City of Berlin Welfare Department is charged with “assisting those who are poor and unable to support themselves” as per NH RSA 165. To carry out this mission, the department must balance the needs of those unable to support their basic needs with those of the taxpayers. To do so guidelines are used to outline what type of assistance is offered, what items are not counted as basic needs, what cannot be assisted with and what those who accept assistance are required to do in return. The most basic needs are allowed such as rent, food, electric, medication cost, personal/household needs and all income and assets are subtracted. Assistance is approved only if those basic needs are more than income and assets and only with the difference between the two.

The city works closely with other agencies and charitable groups to meet the community needs and to help people plan for meeting their needs long term. The department requires those receiving assistance to apply for programs such as Medicaid, HUD, Food Stamps (SNAP), WIC, Fuel Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and Social Security programs if it is believed the individual would qualify. Individual budgets are made to help people regain their financial footing and prioritize need over wants. Per state law all abled individuals are required to do a job search and work the Work Program

after receiving assistance in order to be eligible to receive additional assistance in the future. If an individual has income of some sort they are also required to show receipts for portions of the basic needs as directed by the department.

The Work Program is used not only as a way of repaying the taxpayers for the support given but also as a way for those who work to gain a local reference source and in some cases job experiences they have not had before. 1,707 hours were worked on the work program which translates into \$12,375 returned to the taxpayers through work done in the community. Those that receive assistance are assigned to City Departments and local non-profits or to work community events such as Downtown Day of caring. The office fielded over 1,700 contacts during the fiscal year.

Assistance was granted to 90 families. Of those assisted 30 were single males, 28 were single females and 32 were multi-person households. Assistance was issued as follows:

Type of Assistance	Total Assistance	# of Families Assisted-Unduplicated
Cremations /Incidentals	\$ 6,374.50	8
Bus Ticket	\$ 49.00	1
Electric	\$ 2,300.44	18
Rent	\$31,570.37	57
Medical	\$ 127.52	3
Groceries/ Personal Household	\$ 3,812.40	39
Fuel	\$ 995.70	3
Total	\$45,180.93	129

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Martin Giroux
Health & Welfare Director